Qatar marked the 10th edition of the National Sport Day yesterday, with an aim to raise awareness of the importance of sports and its role in society and make it an essential part of the daily life of the individual. National Sport Day is an event unique to Qatar.

This year only individual activities were held, such as running, swimming and cycling, as sports that require contact and several teams competing in a limited space were not allowed.

Additionally, public attendance was not allowed in places of sports activities during the National Sport Day. This was all according to the plan to re-impose restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Qatar and to prevent further outbreaks and ensure the safety of society. All sports activities took place outdoors, as indoor sports were prohibited as a precaution. Additionally, sporting events in schools and clubs were not allowed.

The importance of organizing a National Sport Day in Qatar every year came to raise the status of sport with the moral and human values it underlines and ensures the health of society.

It also aims to educate citizens about the importance of sports in daily life and encourages them to practice it throughout the year, in addition to the main health benefits of sports and exercising.

Qatar celebrated the first National Sport Day in February 2012 after Joint Decree No: 801 of 2012 was issued. The Decree stated that the second Tuesday of every February will be a National Sport Day and holiday.

Ministries and other government agencies, public bodies and institutions organize sporting events for employees and their families to raise awareness of the importance of sports and its role in the lives of individuals and societies on National Sport Day.

QNA — DOHA

On our Sport Day, in this exceptional year which all countries of the world are experiencing, sport exercises remain indispensable for health and social behavior. I wish everyone an enjoyable day.

H E Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani is working in a part to mark the National Sport Day yesterday.

President of the Republic of Lebanon H E General Michel Anan meeting Qatar’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, in Beirut, yesterday.

Decree No: 801 of 2012 issued by the Council of Ministers on 25 February 2012 to confirm the level of awareness of individuals and society and confirm the level of awareness reached by society.

President H E Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in Beirut, yesterday.

Minister of Culture and Sports H E Salah bin Ghanem Al Ali said that National Sport Day is an annual day for promoting community sports in Qatar.

The Minister affirmed in a statement on the occasion of National Sport Day, which the State of Qatar celebrates annually on the second Tuesday of February, that Sport Day is a priority for promoting awareness on the global level. Adding that it is based on the wise leadership’s view regarding the status of sport in societies and its belief in the importance of investing in people.

He added that Sport Day contributes to the diversification of sports activity by not limiting it to competitive sports and achieving the required balance with the various types of sports that the community practices, so that the Qatari society becomes a model for moral and intellectual advancement, which is confirmed by the quality and quantity of investments made in the human element is important in maintaining the status of sport in Qatar and enhancing its status in the future.

The Minister of Culture and Sports indicated that holding Sport Day this year in an exceptional circumstances due to the coronavirus pandemic shows the commitment of the Qatari society to precaution measures. In order to enhance the safety of individuals and society and confirm the level of awareness reached by society.
**Amiri Guard celebrates National Sport Day.**

Under the auspices of the Commander of the Amiri Guard Major General Hazza bin Khalid Al Sabah, the Amiri Guard held a number of activities to celebrate the National Sport Day, in celebration of the state’s National Sport Day for 2021. The number of agreements reached in various fields at the meeting of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and the visiting Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, H E Mevlut Cavusoglu, was stressed. The meeting was held in New York in June.

Amidst the backdrop of the Regional Security Forum held in the Southern States, the Amiri Guard held a number of activities to celebrate the National Sport Day, in celebration of the state’s National Sport Day for 2021. The number of agreements reached in various fields at the meeting of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and the visiting Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, H E Mevlut Cavusoglu, was stressed. The meeting was held in New York in June.

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MoPH reports 477 new cases, 158 recoveries

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) on Wednesday announced the registration of 477 new confirmed COVID-19 cases, raising the total number of recoveries in Qatar to 142,191.

The number of new recoveries is 158, while 64 people continue to receive medical attention in ICUs.

The total number of cases confirmed in Qatar is 142,349.

H E Ambassador Sheika Alia Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani, Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, highlighted the cases. Qatar has taken for the Fifth Conference since the unprecedented circumstances and challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Qatar in the conference, explaining that Qatar National Convention Center will host the Conference, as it is one of the largest conference centers in the Middle East and the most technologically advanced. It also has a state-of-the-art presentation and production facilities and it is staffed by a team of event and conference management professionals.

In light of the emerging challenges and the changing global landscape, and the additional burden the coronavirus pandemic placed on the shoulders of the least developed countries, she expressed Qatar’s firm commitment to the Least Developed Countries, expressing Qatar’s readiness to address the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, she said that Qatar Plan of Action will be the first to address the challenges faced by the least developed countries, expressing Qatar’s readiness to meet these challenges.

She referred to the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2011-2020 in addressing the structural challenges facing the least developed countries, expressing the appreciation of the State of Qatar for the new programme for the next decade to build on the achievements that have been made and to complete the goals that are still in progress.

She added that Doha Plan of Action will be the first to address the challenges faced by the least developed countries, in addition to the recovery from the pandemic and its multifaceted impacts.

Director-General of the Unesco, Audrey Azoulay, has wished Qatar on National Sport Day. “You understand very well the power of sport. I wish you all an excellent National Sports Day.” said Azoulay in a video message.

“Today entire country is celebrating sports and its values. I wish to add Unesco voice to this celebration because sport is more than just scoring goals, beating records or winning races.”

Amir sends message to Amir of Kuwait

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent a written message to the Amir of the State of Kuwait H H Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, pertaining to bilateral relations and ways to support and develop them. Qatar’s Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Sabanci bin Mohamad Al Aluan handed over the message during his meeting with the Amir of Kuwait at Bayan Palace, yesterday.

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Qatar embassies, consultates abroad mark National Sport Day

Qatar embassies and consultates around the world celebrated National Sport Day on March 26. The event was organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Qatari National Committee for Organizing the World Cup 2022 (QNCC), with support from the Qatari Embassy and the Qatari Cultural Center.

The Qatari embassies in Berlin, London, Madrid, Paris, Rome, Tokyo, and Washington D.C. organized various activities to mark the event. These included sports challenges, health and safety workshops, and cultural events.

The Qatari embassy in Berlin hosted a quiz competition, while the London embassy organized a sports day with activities such as football, basketball, and volleyball. The Paris embassy held a virtual event featuring Qatari athletes and the Qatari National Olympic Committee.

In addition to sports and cultural activities, the Qatari embassies also highlighted the importance of sports in promoting social cohesion and national values. They emphasized the role of sports in fostering peace and understanding among nations.

The Qatari embassies around the world are part of a larger effort by the Qatari government to promote sports and physical activity as a means of promoting national unity and social progress. The Qatari government has made significant investments in sports infrastructure and has hosted numerous international sports events, including the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The Qatari embassies abroad are an important tool for promoting Qatari culture and values, and for building bridges between Qatar and other nations. They play a crucial role in promoting the Qatari brand and in building a positive image of Qatar around the world.

The Qatari embassies abroad are also important for promoting Qatari business and trade interests. They work to promote Qatari products and services, and to attract foreign investment to Qatar.

In conclusion, the Qatari embassies abroad are an important tool for promoting Qatari culture, values, and interests. They play a crucial role in promoting the Qatari brand and in building a positive image of Qatar around the world. They are also important for promoting Qatari business and trade interests.
Women athletes inspire community at QF’s National Sport Day celebration

Aisha Al Thani said that it important to have a disciplined lifestyle and keep a balance between sport and other priorities in life. “If you have a passion for sports one of the main characteristics to be disciplined,” she added.

While trying to balance their sport and other activities like higher education can be overwhelming but with right time management and support system one can overcome it,” she added.

The exhibition aimed to shine the light on Qatar’s immeasurable contributions to our sports industry. “National Sport Day activities also featured professional instructors from gyms and fitness centers across Qatar offering sessions that were open to everyone through a dedicated National Sport Day section on QF’s website, while a series of activities for all ages were held through the newly-launched Education City App.”

The annual celebration of sport, which is organized by the Qatar Foundation (QF) and Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) to raise awareness in Qatar of the sport is now part of our culture.”

QF’s National Sport Day talks introduced by QF CEO, His Excellency Sultan Al Jassem on historic sports events in Qatar in the past, in addition to sports artworks by Ahmed Al Maadheed are among the other highlights of the exhibition.

“QF’s National Sport Day activities have been planned to engage the public in a fun and innovative way to create awareness of the importance of sport and its benefits,” said Mariam Farid, QF’s National Sport Day Ambassador.

Professional instructors from Falafel Gym and Fitness Qatar, who are also participating in a Muay Thai with Haneen of the Qatar Skydive Team and the Joint Special Forces for the largest parachute中有 students from national and international educational institutions. The event aims to promote a healthy lifestyle through innovative means.

QF’s National Sport Day activities will include a range of events for all ages including a 10 km run, a 2 km mountain bike race, a 1 km fun run, and a 1 km swimming race, as well as a range of workshops and seminars on the benefits of sport and exercise.

In a session focusing on how sport can be used to improve the mental health of children, Mariam Farid, a Qatari athlete and TV personality, delivered a talk titled “The Importance of Sport in Mental Health”. Mariam, who was a member of the Qatar Olympic women’s football team, shared her experiences and insights on the importance of sport in mental health.

Downtown Doha and organized by QF, the immersive virtual object AR game AR game for NSD which launched yesterday at AlHosh TV personality Khalid Al Jumaily in conversation with Qatari athlete Mariam Farid during QF's National Sport Day talks.

TV personality Khalid Al Jumaily in conversation with Qatar athlete Mariam Farid during QF’s National Sport Day talks.

Open to everyone in Qatar, the innovative game that seamlessly blends the real and virtual objects requires players to collect as many balls as possible while avoiding getting hit by the rogue characters. The game is designed to showcase how our digital expertise is being used to create a healthy lifestyle through innovation.

“The aim of NSD is to raise awareness of the importance of sport and exercise, and to engage the public in a fun and innovative way,” said Mariam.

The event is part of a series of initiatives teaming up with Olympic experts to improve the mental health of children.

HMC changes visitor policy as COVID-19 precisionary measure

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Qatar, the visitor policy has been changed across Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) hospitals.

It has become necessary to make important changes to our current policy and announce an announcement published in social media.

According to the announcement, from today February 10, visitors will not be allowed at Community Health Centers, Al Thakhira General Hospital, and all other HMC outpatient clinics except for children under five years of age, pregnant women, and women of childbearing age. Visitors will need to wear a mask, show their license and undergo body temperature checks.

These changes are made for the safety of our patients and visitors. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation,” an HMC update said.

Also HMC is stopping physical availability at outpatient clinics in Hamad Medical Corporation hospitals and all HMC outpatient clinics has urged patients not to come the hospital for appointments.

In a statement, organizers said “Exercise boosts our mood and releases the tension and worry in our body. It is one of the best ways to reduce stress in your body. You should engage in sports and exercise as much as is needed to meet people. But it’s important to set realistic targets with exercise, it doesn’t have to be a large change of time. It’s as simple as 10-15 minutes of exercises every day, that is enough in terms of benefits for our mental health. It simply has to be something that is fun and enjoyable.”

QF University celebrates NSD virtually

QF University (QF) celebrated the National Sport Day (NSD) 2021 with the slogan “Sports Unites Us” virtually in QF’s virtual mediums equipped according to the precautionary measures for the COVID-19 pandemic. The NSD kicked off on Saturday February 6 and is celebrated annually to enhance community awareness of the importance of sport and its impact on an individual’s life.

Commenting on the occasion, Dr. Hassan Al Darwish, President of QF, said “National Sport Day is a significant national occasion, in which we spotlight activities that tell the story of Qatar’s dedication to sports, health and healthy community.”

The State of Qatar, which is about to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, has taken great efforts to ensure that the spirit of sport and exercise is prevalent in the country.”

Instructors during an online training session.

NSD is an opportunity that we can use to engage the public in fun and innovative ways to create awareness of the importance of sport and exercise,” he added.

Dr. Hassan urged employees and community members to participate in sports and encourage their colleagues and family members to be active and living a healthy lifestyle.

Rahaf Al Thani said “Sports offers unique perspective on Qatar sporting figures

“Sports Exhibition in Downtown” which launched yesterday at AlWah Gallery at Sidki Alwadi Al Haweli Downtown Doha.

“The exhibition aims to shine the light on Qatar’s immeasurable contributions to our sports industry. ‘NSD is an opportunity that we can use to engage the public in fun and innovative ways to create awareness of the importance of sport and exercise,” he added.

The sports exhibition offers unique perspective on Qatar sporting figures and encourages the public to be active and living a healthy lifestyle.

Sponsored by Mabroor Properties, the exhibition is curated by Mohammed Al Thani and his associates. The exhibition is open for public viewing following COVID-19 safety precautions from 10am to 5pm until February 20.}

Women athletes inspire community at QF’s National Sport Day celebration

Mohammed Al Thani’s mountaineering career and traveler and athlete Ali Nada first woman to represent Qatar at the Olympics

Vodafone launches AR game for NSD

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In a statement, organizers said “this exhibition aims to shine the light on the Qatari sport in the past and the present and introduces the current generations to the big achievements to follow.”

In the exhibition, achievements such as Guinness World Records for Qatar achieved by the Qatar Skydive Team and the Joint Special Forces for "the largest parachute-forming formation at night" in 2018 and "the most parachuting sequences in canopy by a team" just this year are also celebrated.

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Egypt opens Rafah crossing with Gaza as Palestinian talks hold

**Reuters** — CAIRO-GAZA

Egypt yesterday opened its Rafah border crossing with the Gaza Strip for the first time since last month, allowing 1,536 people to cross through for the first time since the border was closed. The crossing is the only way for people to enter or leave the Gaza Strip, which is surrounded by Israel and Egypt.

According to sources in Gaza, the crossing was opened for humanitarian reasons, including medical cases and prisoners. Many people had been waiting for months to leave the besieged territory.

The opening of the crossing is seen as a positive step towards easing the suffering of the Gazans, who have been under a strict Israeli blockade for years.

**Arab foreign ministers reiterate commitment to Palestinian rights**

**AP** — CAIRO

Arab foreign ministers have reiterated their commitment to the Palestinian cause, calling for international recognition of a Palestinian state and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The ministers also called for the lifting of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

They also condemned Israeli policies, such as settlement expansion and the annexation of East Jerusalem, and called for international pressure to halt these policies.

The ministers also called for the implementation of the two-state solution, based on the 1967 borders, and the recognition of the right of return for all Palestinian refugees.

They also called for the lifting of the Israeli siege of Gaza and the lifting of all economic sanctions against the Palestinian Authority.

**Iran opens Rafah border after it was closed by Egypt**

**Reuters** — CAIRO

Iran has reopened the Rafah border crossing with Egypt after it was closed for over a month. The border crossing is the only way for people to enter or leave the Gaza Strip, which is surrounded by Israel and Egypt.

The reopening of the border was welcomed by both sides, as it will help to ease the suffering of the Gazans, who have been under a strict Israeli blockade for years.

The border crossing had been closed since March due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The reopening of the border is seen as a positive step towards easing the suffering of the Gazans, who have been under a strict Israeli blockade for years.

An Israeli-led blockade has put restrictions on the movement of people and goods for years.

Israel had opened the Rafah crossing for only a few days at a time to allow stranded travelers to pass.

The crossing was opened early today, and a bus carrying Palestinian citizens in Egypt, two Syrian asylum seekers, and a mobile unit from Egypt's Red Crescent entered the strip.

Rafah will remain open "until further notice", one source at the checkpoint and an Egyptian security source said.

The Egyptian government in Cairo said it had decided to open the crossing as a result of "intensive" bilateral talks between the Palestinian and Egyptian leaderships to facilitate the passage of people and goods to and from Gaza.

Palestinian sources attending the Cairo talks said they had been told by Egyptian intelligence officials that the move was designed to create a "hot atmosphere" at the negotiations.

Israel has had in place for 15 years to recognize the two states and the talks are unlikely to bridge the deep divide between Abbas's Fatah and the Hamas leadership, which refuses to hold an election in an both Gaza and the West Bank, with the aim of setting the stage for a Palestinian government for both territories.

The two-state solution was envisaged as the "best and fairest" way forward, but it has beenisNaNated in recent years due to the continued occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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Palestinian leaders in Egypt have reiterated their commitment to the Palestinian cause, calling for international recognition of a Palestinian state and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The leaders also called for the lifting of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

They also called for the implementation of the two-state solution, based on the 1967 borders, and the recognition of the right of return for all Palestinian refugees.

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Ethiopia secures 9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines till April

Ethiopia has secured 9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines until April under the Covax facility, according to the government.

The country, which has been among the hardest hit by the pandemic, has been working on a national vaccination plan to inoculate 40% of its population by the end of the year, health minister DrLEMMA MOBOURK told state broadcaster ESBS.

"We have been allocated 9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines," he said.

"Within the next year we want to make sure we get at least 20% of the population vaccinated," he added.

In late February, Ethiopia signed a deal with Johnson & Johnson to start its vaccination programme with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Economists have warned that the pandemic’s effects on the global economy are likely to last for more than a decade, sparking a need for new strategies to support growth.

"We have to be prepared to live with the virus," MOBOURK said.

"We have to prepare for the worst," he added.

MOBOURK said the country has been able to secure the vaccine through the Covax facility, which is aimed at ensuring equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to low and middle-income countries.

"We have signed a deal with Johnson & Johnson to start vaccinating 90% of the population," he said.

"We have also been able to secure 9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines through the Covax facility," he added.

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In a harsher trade world, EU arms itself for future conflicts

EU has agreed an interim appeals system with trading partners, including China, but not the United States. The legislation was first put forward in 2012 but was locked by EU countries. However, Germany and others have now changed their views. The legislation is first put forward in 2012 but was linked by EU countries. In the end, it also retains the ability to reach in case third countries are not playing by the rules so we are better products are imported under our own love and care, Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said. The EU’s enforcement push was already gathering pace in 2019 when the EU first declared China a “sustainable threat” and when the Trump administration paraded the World Trade Organization’s Appellate Body as the ultimate arbiter of global trade. “In the US we have had a standing panel and no one is doing anything,” said Andre Sapir, senior fellow at Brussels-based think tank Bruegel. The EU’s enforcement regulation is a result that is not clear if the US will end up in a decade ago, it appears the shape of things to come, with another panel ruled against China over subsidies to Airbus and another panel tied up in disputes over Chinese state aid. Should all this, the EU’s agreements with US trading partners are no longer in force. At least one other EU trading partner expects to resist, provisionally and despite all the EU’s talks with China about the problem. The European Union also wants to impose a ban on these disputes with China, and in the United States, the EU also has a formal complaint against China over subsidies to its producers. The European Union also wants to impose a ban on China over the use of forced labour and the EU has faced a backlash in recent years, especially in the case of China. The point remains, however, that it is likely to impose punitive tariffs on EU goods. In the United States, the EU also has a formal complaint against China over subsidies to its producers.
matters in the future. New experiences and opportunity and learn new experiences and lessons to avoid such matters in the future.

YUN SUN
Senior Fellow at the Mexican National Institute

Since the early hours of February 1, the world has been watching the political developments in Myanmar in shock. From removing the civilian government to filing criminal charges against State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, the Myanmar military took a series of steps that fundamentally changed the political landscape. But did Myanmar really miss its shot at becoming a true democracy?

The coup is not yet over,民主, and its authority cannot be challenged until the military decides to hand over power to the people of Myanmar. The military has shown a clear commitment to rule the country efficiently and economically, as evidenced by the recent events in Myanmar.

The coup is not yet over, and we do not yet know how the military will respond to the ongoing conflict with the people of Myanmar. The military has already shut down the internet and imposed strict curfews and lockdowns, leading to widespread protests and violent clashes. The future of Myanmar remains uncertain, and the military leadership is likely to continue its efforts to maintain control and preserve its power.

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Myanmar police fire rubber bullets, tear gas at protesters

Myanmar's police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at students opposing military rule yesterday, as people dispersed large crowds that gathered near the capital Naypyidaw during the Lunar New Year festival.

The at-times chaotic scenes showed the military regime holding a tight grip on power and the protest movement that has drawn thousands of demonstrators street by street across the Southeast Asian nation since the coup last February.

They've used social media to quickly mobilize support with mass demonstrations the release of detained civil leaders including Aung San Suu Kyi recognition of the military's legitimate right to rule and by withdrawal of the government from power. The United Nations in Myanmar expressed concern over the actions of police and security forces with demonstrativesteam across the Southeast Asian nation since the weekend. We've used social media to quickly mobilize support with mass demonstrations the release of detained civil leaders including Aung San Suu Kyi recognition of the military's legitimate right to rule and by withdrawal of the government from power. The United Nations in Myanmar expressed concern over the actions of police and security forces with demonstrativesteam across the Southeast Asian nation since the weekend.

BLOOMBERG — WASHINGTON

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Protesters in Thailand today are expected to make significant progress in their demands, with key political figures announcing their support for the movement. However, the military regime is cracking down on opposition activities, with police and soldiers using force to disperse demonstrations.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has called on the protesters to return to the fold, as the Constitutional Court ruled on the legality of the government's recent dissolution of the parliament. The court's decision is expected to have a significant impact on the political landscape in Thailand.

The government has also arrested several prominent activists in recent days, including human rights lawyer Arnon Nampha and rapper1. These arrests have raised concerns about the government's approach to dissent, with opposition leaders warning that the country is sliding towards dictatorship.

Meanwhile, the economy is facing challenges, with inflation and unemployment rates remaining high. The government has announced plans to introduce stimulus measures to support the economy, but these measures have been met with mixed reactions from the public.

The ongoing protests have highlighted the need for a political solution, with many calling for a return to civilian rule and the immediate release of political prisoners. The military regime has so far refused to yield, maintaining its grip on power and suppressing opposition voices.

In Myanmar, the military junta has continued to suppress dissent, with security forces using lethal force to disperse protests. The United Nations has expressed concern over the situation, calling for an immediate end to violence and the release of all political prisoners.

India orders more than astraZeneca vaccines
doses

India reported 10.5% increase in cases on Monday, marking the first time in nearly six months that the daily increase has been higher than the previous day. The country has reported more than 100,000 daily cases for the first time since September.

The government is planning to inoculate 100 million people by April, but the country's vaccine supply is still limited. India has received fewer than 100 million doses so far, with most of them being from Pfizer and Moderna.

India has also yet to decide on the reimbursement of vaccine costs, with the government reportedly considering a compensation package of around $50 per dose. This has raised concerns among vaccine manufacturers, who have already incurred significant costs.

South Korea PM pleads for COVID-19 compliance

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun yesterday called on the country's business owners in the greater Seoul area to cooperate with social distancing rules in light of a special fund of COVID-19 vaccine costs covering the Lunar New Year holiday.

The case is the first of its kind in India, with the government planning to introduce a similar scheme. The fund is expected to be used to cover the cost of COVID-19 vaccination for workers in the hospitality and aviation sectors.

The government has been under pressure to act, with concerns growing about the spread of COVID-19 in the country. The country has reported more than 1 million cases in the past week, with the number of daily infections reaching a new high.

The vaccine fund is expected to cover the cost of COVID-19 vaccinations for up to 1 million workers in the hospitality and aviation sectors. The fund will be available to workers who have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

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Philippines set to step up naval presence in South China Sea

REUTERS - EMPAPADD

The Philippines will base its naval presence in its South China Sea islands on Tuesday, in a major step that government officials say will increase its ability to police its territory. The announcement comes as China continues to assert its claims in the region, with several countries, including the Philippines, asserting their own rights to parts of the South China Sea.

The Philippines' move is seen as a significant development in the ongoing territorial disputes in the region, with the Philippines and China both claiming sovereignty over the Spratly Islands. The Philippines has long been a vocal critic of China's claims in the region, and the move is likely to be seen as a sign of the country's growing resolve to assert its rights.

Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the Philippines will increase its naval presence in the Spratlys by deploying a new anti-submarine patrol vessel, the BRP Tubbataha, to the area. The new vessel will be capable of conducting anti-submarine warfare operations, and will be capable of monitoring activity in the area.

The move comes as China continues to expand its military presence in the region, with reports suggesting that China has been building military facilities on the islands in the Spratlys.

The Philippines has long been a vocal critic of China's claims in the South China Sea, and has been involved in a number of disputes with the country over the islands. The move is seen as a significant development in the ongoing territorial disputes in the region, with the Philippines and China both claiming sovereignty over the Spratly Islands.
Germany earmarks €9bn to procure more vaccine doses

Finance Minister Olaf Scholz’s letter to lawmakers in the following format of the news publication.

Germany is planning to spend nearly €9 billion on vaccines to help procure up to 23.1 million COVID-19 vaccination shots for its population and other EU member states, a finance ministry document showed.

Delays to the EU’s rollout so far have raised concern among some countries about the pace at which the bloc procures vaccines for use within the EU. The problems have led to a rift between Brussels and Berlin.

Finance Minister Olaf Scholz’s letter to lawmakers in the following format of the news publication.

Berlin: Germany earmarks Europe’s oldest 117-year-old 12 WEDNESDAY plans come after Scholz said they should approve a request by Health Minister Jens Spahn for an additional €2.6bn to procure more vaccines. This comes on top of €2.6bn already earmarked in the 2021 budget.

The additional spending plan comes a full 11 years after the last time he was angry that more than 150 million doses of the EU’s joint procurement programme, known as “Vaccines4EU”, had not been delivered, according to the scheme’s document. All EU member states agreed to procure vaccines under the programme in March 2020.

“For the federal government, procuring COVID-19 vaccines is of fundamental importance for preserving the system under control,” Spahn told parliament.

In addition, a broad portfolio of vaccines is necessary so Germany will have effective vaccines for the various populations and geographic areas in the case that not all vaccines are approved,” he added.

The COVID-19 situation in France was right to decide against a national lockdown: minister

The COVID-19 situation in France was right to be setting its sights on imposing a new national lockdown, Health Minister Olivier Veran said yesterday. Veran also said it was “impossible and indeed preferable” that a national lockdown would be locked down again.

The number of people in France in intensive care units rose by 459 on Monday, raising the total number to 11,827, the highest death toll globally.

UK tightens travel curbs, threatens ruler jail, fines

The government was right to do more to rein in the spread of the virus, Hancock said.

The health secretary Matt Hancock said people could be fined for not staying in place until the government was satisfied it was safe to ease restrictions.

Arrivals in England must currently prove of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of departure. The government is due to confirm in weeks that passengers will need to quarantine in hotel accommodation for 10 days, Hancock said yesterday, adding that pressure will put on those who break the rules which come into force from Monday to 79,423 - the seventh-straight day with fewer than 100,000 new cases per day and 3,000-3,200 deaths a day.

So far, lockdown has been “effective” and indeed preferable” that another national lockdown is imposed, Veran reiterated that the AstraZeneca vaccine is still effective against 90% of the COVID-19 only if administered to the people.

As a consequence, vaccine programs would be in place within weeks, Hancock said.

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Rusia sees 3-fold rise in virus-linked deaths last year

**Bloomberg**

Russia’s deaths toll from COVID-19 in 2020 was nearly three times higher in absolute terms compared to 2019 and reported by the government, and the disease accounted for half of all excess deaths last year, a Bloomberg analysis shows. The Federal Statistics Service saw the number of COVID-19 deaths linked to COVID-19 in December 2020 as 102,419, or 35% higher than the full year total of 70,221. Russia reported 281,457 COVID-19 deaths in 2020 reports the country’s virus response centre.

The presidents of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia have been accused of craving autocratic rule in the region to defy the coronavirus pandemic, building control over their security, the climate, and economy, which have been affected by the virus. They are part of the Visegrad Group, an informal body of political and economic cooperation in the region.

A Danish man has been given a positive result in a court lawsuit over complaints that his government’s pardon of a killer who got 21 years for torturing and murdering a Danish journalist hurt their human rights. The man had been convicted of decapitating the man and throwing his head into a wall.

Two Belarusian journalists working for the police television channel were released on trial in the capital Minsk yesterday on charges related to their coverage of mass protests in 2020. The Belarusian Association of Journalists said Yakub Andreyevich and Darya Chultsova, a reporter and a commentator for Belsat, were arrested in November 2020. The European High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, attending a debate during a plenary session of the European Parliament, in Brussels yesterday.

Karetska Andreychou and Darya Chultsova, accused of coordinating mass protests in 2020 by broadcasting speeches and reports, listened while standing inside a defendant’s cage before a court hearing, in Minsk yesterday.

Borrell is due to visit the region this week. The European Parliament, saying his visit should be “deemed a positive development.”

The two Western diplomats said the US and the EU should pressure Russia to “reevaluate its position” on the situation. The US and the EU have imposed sanctions on Russia, including the freezing of assets and the blocking of assets and travel bans.

The Russian government is the world’s largest producer of tobacco products, but it is also a major consumer of tobacco products. The government has been aware of the health risks associated with smoking for many years, but it has not taken effective action to address them. The government has not implemented effective policies to reduce tobacco use, such as increasing taxes on tobacco products or implementing smoking bans in public places. The government has also not funded research on the effects of smoking on public health.

Borrell’s comments suggest a hardening of EU attitudes to Russia, a big enough drop in 2020, after years of working with Russia, including the so-called sanctions imposed in 2014. Russia said the sanctions were illegal and Russia asked the UN to welcome the EU in 18 “invaluable relations.”

Many EU lawmakers said the Kremlin wanted to try again to make a “difference at the end of this month in 2020, the Belarusian Association of Journalists said.

Josep Borrell, who has made a career as a minister, said the EU wanted to try again at the end of 2020, the Belarusian Association of Journalists said.

Josep Borrell said the visit last Friday to Moscow had cemented his view that Russia wanted to try again to make a “difference at the end of 2020, the Belarusian Association of Journalists said. Borrell said he had told Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov, which Borrell described as a “positive signal,” that Russia had not wanted to try again at the end of 2020, the Belarusian Association of Journalists said.

Volunteer doctors turned away from struggling health service in Portugal

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São Paulo, April 14 (Reuters) - Bolsonaro says new emergency aid package being discussed

The government's constitutional and presiding over a crippling economic crisis.

The Bolsonaro administration is considering offering one-time financial aid to families and businesses to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The package would be aimed at helping those most affected by the economic downturn, particularly vulnerable groups like low-income households and informal workers.

The proposal comes as Brazil faces rising cases of the virus and a struggling economy. The government has already implemented several measures to support the population, including cash transfers and tax breaks, but additional assistance is needed to support those in the most vulnerable situations.

Bolsonaro has said that the package would be designed to provide financial relief to those most in need, while also stimulating economic activity. The government is expected to announce the details of the package in the coming weeks.

However, some critics have raised concerns about the proposed package, arguing that it could lead to increased government debt and budget deficits. There are also concerns about the potential for corruption and mismanagement of funds.

The government has said that it will be transparent about the spending and will use the funds to support those who need it most. The package is expected to be rushed through Congress to be able to be implemented as soon as possible.

The move comes as Brazil faces a difficult economic situation, with rising unemployment and a debt crisis. The government has been under pressure to provide additional support to the population, and the proposed package is seen as a step in that direction.

However, there are concerns that the package could have negative long-term consequences for the economy. The government will need to balance the need for immediate relief with the need for long-term fiscal sustainability.

The proposal is expected to be discussed in the upcoming weeks, with the government hoping to have a final plan in place soon.
Trump’s historic second impeachment trial begins

US Senator Patrick Leahy waves the gavel to proceed over and convene the US Senate as it begins the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump on the floor of the Senate chamber on Wednesday, March 3.

The Senate opened Donald Trump’s historic second impeachment trial Wednesday, the latest in a series of efforts by congressional Republicans to stop the conviction of Pres- ident Joe Biden’s successor.

The chamber stood at 57-43 in favor of proceeding, short of the 67 votes needed to secure a conviction. The Republican senators opposed to Trump’s trial were Mike Lee of Utah, Mike Braun of Indiana, Tommy Tuberville of Alabama, and Susan Collins of Maine.

The House voted 231-197 on Monday to send the case over to the Senate, where the trial will begin in earnest on Tuesday. Liberal Democrats were joined by five moderate Republicans in voting to send the case over to the Senate.

The trial, scheduled to begin Tuesday, will focus on whether Trump should be barred from future federal office. It will unfold in the shadow of Biden’s victory in the 2020 election and the turmoil it unleashed.

Prosecutors are expected to introduce new evidence of Trump’s role in the Jan. 6 attack on the US Capitol, which led to Biden’s ascension to the White House.

The delay in the trial was caused by a Senate Republican’s objecting to the procedural rules.

“The delay smothered questions about the national security implications of the US open to future office,” said a Republican senator.

Democrats argued that Trump’s role in inciting the Capitol insurrection was evident.

“The facts are clear,” said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. “At a time when we needed a leader and a voice of reason, Donald Trump unleashed an American mob on the US Capitol, provoking a violent attack on American democracy and its founding principle of self-government.”

Trump’s lawyers are insisting that he is not guilty of the sole charge of “incitement of insurrection,” his fiery words just a figure of speech. But prosecutors say his “fighting words” were “good defense” and they promise new evidence.
The coronavirus most likely first appeared in humans after jumping from an animal, a team from Australia and Chinese scientists said, dismissing as unlikely an alternative theory that traced its origins from a Chinese lab. A closely watched visit by World Health Organization experts to Wuhan — the city where the first known cases emerged — did not dramatically change the current understanding of the early days of the pandemic, said Peter Ben Embarek, the leader of the WHO mission.

But it “added details to that story,” he said at a news conference Monday night, following a nearly four-week visit to the city.

And it allowed the joint China-WHO team to refine one theory on the origins of the virus. The WHO's initial report, released last May, said it had not found evidence that the virus originated in a lab and dismissed the theory that it was leaked from a Chinese lab. Kakao Talk app in 2010 and announcement, according to Precise details of the donation difficulty in approaching.” and help people that Kakao has richest people.

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